

June 25 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

are shaken by chaos and crime—the people do. And yet, for more than 2 years Congress has failed to act on our proposals—good, solid proposals—to fight crime and to strengthen the rule of law.

So, we've got to wait and see what the final product will look like. I'm simply not going to sign just any bill, just call it an anticrime bill. And I will not sign any bill, frankly, that handcuffs our law enforcement people, our police, and that demoralizes the law enforcement community.

Now we just got word, however, this morning—another disappointment, I might say—but the Senate declined to adopt our exclusionary rule provision. Our proposal would have extended what they call a good faith exception of the exclusionary rule to warrant searches. This means that the evidence of serious crimes will be excluded at trial now because the officer did not have a warrant, even where the officer believes in good faith that no warrant was necessary.

So, as troubling as this is, what is worse is that the Biden exclusionary rule proposal

remains in the bill. And although Senator Biden attempted to codify current case law, our view is that his language would actually make it harder to get evidence admitted as it does current law.

So, I hope the Senate will take a new look at these provisions. I hope that Congress or the House side of that Congress will act, and I can guarantee all of you who are giving a lot of your lives—and your people are—to law enforcement that the American people are with us in this; they want these things done. And I'm having great difficulty getting it through the Congress, so I hope the American people will speak up and let the Congress know that this kind of strong anticrime legislation has their support. We need some action.

It's a pleasure.

Note: The President spoke at 12:14 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With Secretary General Manfred Woerner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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The President met with NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner in the Oval Office for approximately 30 minutes this afternoon. Secretary General Woerner and the President reviewed the progress NATO has made in the transition of the alliance as mandated by the NATO leaders at the July 1990 NATO summit. In particular, they focused on the success of the recent Defense Planning Committee Ministerial and the North Atlantic Council Ministerial meeting. Secretary General Woerner and the Presi-

dent also discussed arrangements for the November NATO summit in Rome, which they view as the culmination of the work mandated in London. Both of them agreed on the vitality and the relevancy of NATO to meet future challenges in Europe. The President also reiterated the United States strong support for the development of a European security identity that strengthens the NATO alliance.